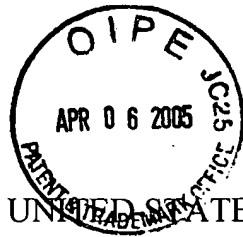


P24194.A06



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Appln. No: 10/659,297

Group Art Unit: 3732

Filed: September 11, 2003

Examiner: Eduardo C. ROBERT

For: ROD CONNECTOR

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
Alexandria , VA 22314

Sir :

In response to the Office Action of November 16, 2004, which set a three-month shortened statutory period, and which has been extended by two-months to expire on April 16, 2005, Applicants submit the following remarks for entry in the above-identified patent application and request reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the application.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.